

- **Trainings.** Prudent allocation of resources and knowledge of best practices come from a firm understanding of the issues. The Domestic Violence Program promotes training events that foster a greater understanding of domestic violence, explore the intersection of domestic violence with other areas of the law and showcase the latest domestic violence research. The goal of these training events is to help direct resources and guide practices in domestic violence cases in the most effective and efficient manner.
- **Protection Order Forms.** The Domestic Violence Program is committed to maintaining current and relevant domestic violence and stalking protection order forms. While a protection order alone cannot always save a victim's life, it is an important tool used to increase a victim's safety and hold an offender accountable. It is, therefore, critical that protection order forms not only comply with the most recent statutory changes, but also reflect the most current approaches and best practices.

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

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THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Advisory Committee

Support Services

Training

JUDICIAL & COURT SERVICES
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE *and*
RESOURCES *for* OHIO COURTS



The Supreme Court Domestic Violence Program

MISSION STATEMENT

To assist and support local courts with civil and criminal domestic violence and stalking cases, including the study of practices and procedures, and promotion of best practices that result in increasing victim safety and holding offenders accountable.

Recognizing the importance of effective and sound domestic violence practices from the judiciary, the Supreme Court of Ohio established the Domestic Violence Program within its Judicial & Court Services Division in 2007.

The Supreme Court Domestic Violence Program supports its mission by:

- Promoting coordination and communication among courts that issue domestic violence protection orders and other relevant orders
- Supporting standard domestic violence and stalking protection order forms and practices
- Disseminating cutting-edge domestic violence practices, policies and procedures
- Tracking trends in domestic violence and stalking cases
- Developing trainings and other educational opportunities to highlight current trends in the domestic violence field.

Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence

In October 1996, the Supreme Court of Ohio Domestic Violence Task Force issued its report, *Increasing Safety for Victims; Increasing Accountability of Offenders*.

The recommendations were designed to improve the state's responses to domestic violence and provide direction to five action groups—courts, the legislature, social service providers, law enforcement agencies, and county domestic violence advisory councils—with the power to impact and prevent further violence.

The task force recommendations led the Supreme Court to create a Standard Forms Committee, charged with recommending uniform domestic violence protection orders forms. After the Court adopted its first set of standard forms, it became evident that the impact of best practices goes beyond standard forms. The Court expanded the scope of this committee to consider a comprehensive judicial response to domestic violence and in 2006, the committee was renamed the Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence.

Related Projects

The Supreme Court Domestic Violence Program seeks to accomplish the following projects:

- **Domestic Violence Case Trend Analysis.** Anecdotal evidence points to an increase of domestic violence and stalking cases on court dockets statewide; however, little data currently is available to support this perception. A proposed statewide analysis of civil domestic violence cases will examine this perceived trend and identify other areas where research can help courts manage the influx of these cases. The impact of domestic violence cases on criminal dockets is unknown. Because the information on the incidence of domestic violence cases on the civil and criminal dockets is critical for helping courts respond effectively to those cases, the Domestic Violence Program will analyze existing data and collect additional data to report on domestic violence case trends.
- **Topical Benchcards.** The understanding of domestic violence cases has evolved, and it is now recognized that domestic violence intersects with many other areas of the law. Tools like benchcards are an effective way to concisely communicate best practices, practice tips or relevant factors that can be helpful to judges. The Domestic Violence Program will produce these and other resources to help the judiciary effectively handle relevant cases.